

174.17 Issuance of revenue bonds standby tax levy.

1. The governing body of a fair may issue bonds payable from revenue generated by the operations of the fair event and the use or rental of the real and personal property owned or leased by the fair. The governing body of a fair shall comply with all of the following procedures in issuing such bonds:

a. A fair may institute proceedings for the issuance of bonds by causing a notice of the proposal to issue the bonds to be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the county at least ten days prior to the meeting at which the fair proposes to take action for the issuance of the bonds. The notice shall include a statement of the amount and purpose of the bonds, the maximum rate of interest the bonds are to bear, and the right to petition for an election.

b. If at any time before the date fixed for taking action for the issuance of the bonds, a petition signed by three percent of the registered voters of the county is filed with the board of supervisors, asking that the question of issuing the bonds be submitted to the registered voters, the board of supervisors shall either by resolution declare the proposal to issue the bonds to have been abandoned or shall direct the county commissioner of elections to call a special election upon the question of issuing the bonds. The proposition of issuing bonds under this subsection is not approved unless the vote in favor of the proposition is equal to at least sixty percent of the vote cast. If a petition is not filed, or if a petition is filed and the proposition of issuing the bonds is approved at an election, the board of supervisors acting on behalf of the fair may proceed with the authorization and issuance of the bonds. Bonds may be issued for the purpose of refunding outstanding and previously issued bonds under this subsection without otherwise complying with the provisions of this subsection.

c. All bonds issued under this subsection shall be payable solely from and shall be secured by an irrevocable pledge of a sufficient portion of the net rents, profits, and income derived from the operation of the fair event and the use or rental of the real and personal property owned or leased by the fair. Bonds issued pursuant to this section shall not constitute an indebtedness within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory debt limitation or restriction, and shall not be subject to the provisions of any other law or charter relating to the authorization, issuance, or sale of bonds. Bonds issued under this subsection shall not limit or restrict the authority of the fair as otherwise provided by law.

2. To further secure the payment of the bonds, the board of supervisors may, by resolution, provide for the assessment of an annual levy of a standby tax upon all taxable property within the county. A copy of the resolution shall be sent to the county auditor. The revenues from the standby tax shall be deposited in a special fund and shall be expended only for the payment of principal of and interest on the bonds issued as provided in this section, when the receipt of revenues pursuant to subsection 1 is insufficient to pay the principal and interest. If payments are necessary and made from the special fund, the amount of the payments shall be promptly repaid into the special fund from the first available revenues received which are not required for the payment of principal of or interest on bonds due. Reserves shall not be built up in the special fund in anticipation of a projected default. The board of supervisors shall adjust the annual standby tax levy for each year to reflect the amount of revenues in the special fund and the amount of principal and interest which is due in that year.

3. In order for the governing body of a fair to issue bonds under this section, the governing body must conduct a fair event that has a verifiable annual attendance of at least one hundred fifty thousand persons and annual outside gate admission revenues of at least four hundred thousand dollars.